No Objection to Declassification in Part 2011/10/04 : LOC-HAK-548-2-4-7

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TOP SECRET

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TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH27141

TOHAK 8

AUGUST 14, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: THEPRESIDENT

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN VIETNAM

FRIENDLY FORCES CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO RETAKE QUANG TRI CITY AGAINST SOMEWHAT LIGHTER SHELLINGBY THE ENEMY. THE REDUCED INTENSITY OF THE ARTILLERY FIRE MAY BE THE RESULT OF RECENT TACAIR ANDB-52 STRIKES IN THE AREA.

THE AIRBORNE FORCE AND THE ARVN 1ST DIVISION EXPERIENCED A LOW TO MODERATE LEVEL OF CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY IN THEIR AREAS OF OPERATION.

IN MILITARY REGION 2, THE PLEI DJERENG RANGER BORDER CAMP, WEST OF PLEIKU, RECEIVED ITS THIRD MAJOR SHELLING ATTACK SINCE AUGUST 8. THE LOSS OF OVER 1,100 TONS OF MIXED AMMUNITION AT THE PLEIKU AMMO DUMP MAY BE THE RESULT OF SABOTAGEAND NOT ENEMY ACTIVITY.

OSD review completed

IN MILITARY REGION 3, ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE AND AROUNDAN LOC. ENEMY ATTACKS AGAINST FRIENDLY INSTALLATIONS NEAR SAIGON MAY BE ATTEMPTED.

IN MILITARY REGION 4, GROUND OPERATIONS SUPPORTED BY B-52 AND TACTICAL AIR STRIKES ARE TAKING A HEAVY TOLL IN ENEMY CASUALTIES. GENERAL NGHI FEELS THAT THE RECENT UPSURGE IN ENEMY ACTIVITY IS A PRELUDE TO A HIGH POINT THAT WILL BE REACHED SOON.

IN AIR ACTIVITY, US TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FLEW 520 MISSIONS, 229 OF WHICH WEREDIRECTED AGAINST TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM. ONE HUNDRED TWO B-52 SORTIES WERE FLOWN, 36 OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND TWO AGAINST TARGETS IN LAOS.

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MILITARY REGION 1

MARINE FORCES ARE CONTINUING IN THEIR EFFORT TO RETAKE QUANG TRI CITY. YESTERDAY, ENEMY MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS ACTIVE WHICH MAY BE THE RESULT OF TACTICAL AIR AND B-52 STRIKES.

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-- CONTACTS IN QUANG TRI CITY WERE SPORADIC AND RESULTED IN THIRTY-THREE ENEMY KILLED.

-- AIRBORNE FORCES REPORTED SEVERAL CONTACTS IN THE AREA OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE NANCY, RESULTING IN 65 ENEMY KILLED, ONE TANK AND TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED. ARVN LOSSES WERE ONE KILLED AND 25 WOUNDED.

-- FIRST DIVISION ELEMENTS REPORT THAT ENEMY SHELLING ATTACKS WERE AGAIN LIGHT TODAY. SCATTERED GROUND CONTACTS RESULTED IN 15 ENEMY KILLED. FIFTY ENEMY BODIES WERE FOUND IN AN AREA STRUCK BY B-52'S.

-- IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF THE REGION SEVERAL LIGHT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED NEAR FIRESUPPORT BASE ROSS IN WHICH 41 ENEMY WERE KILLED. THERE WERE NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.

-- INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS SUGGESTS THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 312TH DIVISION MAY HAVE DEPOLYED ACROSS THE DMZ AND MAY BE COMMITTED TO BATTLESOON IN THE QUANG TRI CITY AREA.

MILITARY REGION 2

-- THEPLEI DJERENG RANGER CAMP WEST OF PLEIKU RECIEVED AN ATTACK BY FIREOF OVER 100 ROUNDS. IT WAS THE THIRD MAJOR SHELLING ATTACK AGAINST THE CAMP SINCEAUGUST 6, INDICATING THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH NVA DIVISION MAY REMAIN IN THE AREA.

-- OVER 1,100 TONS OF MUNITIONS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AT THE PLEIKU AMMO DUMP IN TWO INCIDENTS. THEIR CLOSE SUCCESSION AND COINCIDENCE WITH OTHER SUCH ACTIONS SUGGEST POSSIBLE SABOTAGE.

-- IN NORTHERN BINH DINH PROVINCE, ONLY SMALL SCALE CONTACTS AND ONE SHELLINGINCIDENT WERE REPORTED.

MILITARY REGION 3

-- ENEMY UNTIS FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY HEAVILY SHELLED REGIONAL FORCE ELEMENTS IN THE PHUOC BINH AREA OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE.

-- ACTION NEAR AN LOC HAS ALSO INCREASED WITH FRIENDLY INITIATED CONTACTS RESULTING IN 34 ENEMY KILLED.

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-- THERECENT INCREASE IN SHELLING AND SAPPER ACTIVITY EASTAND SOUTH OF SAIGON RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT ENEMY ACTION AGAINST FRIENDLY INSTALLATIONS NEAR THE CAPITAL MAY ALSO BE ATTEMPTED.

-- AT AN LOC, THE 18TH ARVN DIVISION HAS SECURED TAN LOI ANDIS PREPARING TO ATTACK AND SEIZE QUAN LOI IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

-- IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, ADDITIONAL FRIENDLY FORCES ARE BEING MOVED TO LAI KHE IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR THAT AREA.

MILITARY REGION 4

-- GROUND OPERATIONS SUPPORTEDBY TACTICAL AIR AND B-52 STRIKES CONTINUE TO INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY IN THE VICINITY OF BASE AREA 470.
ENEMY LOSSES YESTERDAY WERE REPORTED AS 192 KILLED BY AIR AND 22 DETAINED.

-- NORTH OF MOC HOA, 52 ENEMY WERE KILLED WHILE ARVN LOSSES WERE 14 KILLED AND 28 WOUNDED. AIR STRIKES ACCOUNTED FOR TWENTY MORE ENEMY NEAR CAI LAY AND40 ENEMY BODIES WERE FOUND NEAR HAM LONG.

-- MILITARY REGION 4 COMMANDER, GENERAL NGHI, FEELS THAT THE RECENT UPSURE IN ENEMY ACTICITY IS A PRELUDE TO A HIGH POINT THAT WILL BE REACHED SOON.

CAMBODIA

-- IN CAMBODIA, ARVN FORCES SUPPORTED BY VNAF TACTICAL AIR AND ARTILLERY KILLED 51 OF THE ENEMY IN A CONTACT THIRTEEN MILES SOUTHEAST OF SVAY RIENG CITY. FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE 14 KILLED AND 28 WOUNDED.

US AIR AND NAVALACTIVITY

THE FOLLOWINGAIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN TODAY:

	MR-1	MR-2	MR-3	MR-4	NVN	TOTAL
TACAIRUS	144	30	65	52	229	520
TACAIR VNAF	57	33	71	67	2	228
B-52	42	0	9	15	36	102 *

* THERE WERE TWO B-52 SORTIES FLOWN OVER LAOS.

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--MOST USAF AIR STRIKES SCHEDULED FOR THE HANOI AREA TODAY WERE CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER. HOWEVER, 57 AIRCRAFT ARE SLATED TO PERFORM ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF NORTH VIETNAM.

--NAVAL AIR STRIKES WERE CONCENTRATED AGAINST VARIOUS TARGETS IN THE AREAS OF BINH AND THANH HOA WITH OTHERS SCHEDULED FOR THE HANOI/HAIPHONG AREA. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF THESE STRIKES HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

--IN AIR ACTIVITY YESTERDAY, USN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE QUINH TU MILITARY AREA, THE THO TRANG RAILROAD SIDING, THE GA GANH GIAT STORAGE AREA, AND THE YEN DUNG TRUCK PARK. AIRCREWS REPORTED FOUR BUILDINGS DAMAGED AT THE QUINH TU MILITARY AREA. DAMAGE TO THE OTHER THREE TARGETS WAS NOT OBSERVED BECAUSE OF SMOKE. USAF AND USN AIRCRAFT STRUCK TARGETS IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF NORTH VIETNAM AND DESTROYED OR DAMAGED 17 LOGISTIC CRAFT, 11 WAREHOUSES, NINE RAILROAD CARS, 16 TRUCKS, THREE BUILDINGS, NINE BRIDGES, EIGHT STACKS OF SUPPLIES AND TWO AA GUNS. AIRCREWS ALSO REPORTED 11 ROAD CUTS, 30 SECONDARY FIRES, AND 22 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. USAF AND USN TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FLEW TEN SORTIES OVER NORTH VIETNAM. NO ENEMY REACTIONS WERE REPORTED.

25X1 --THREE DESTROYERS CONDUCTED NAVAL GUNFIRE STRIKES AGAINST THE LOC TIEN HIGHWAY TERMINAL, THE CHOU KHE AND MY DUONG AMMUNITION STORAGE AREAS, AND THE HA VANG POL STORAGE AREA. A SHRIKE MISSILE WAS FIRED AT A RADAR SITE NEAR MY DUONG WHICH DAMAGED THE ANTENNA. THREE DESTROYER SUPPORTED BY USN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND USMC HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS CONTINUED SURVEILLANCE, INTERDICTION, AND HARASSMENT OF THE HON LA ANCHORAGE AREA.

POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC

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